



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Columbia Area Office
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, Washington 98901-2058

FEB 7 2005

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UCA-1000
PRJ-1.10

Dear Interested Parties:

In February 2003, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), to conduct the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study (Storage Study). The Storage Study will evaluate storage options for improving water supplies for the Yakima River basin.

An appraisal-level assessment of the technical and engineering aspects of the potential Black Rock alternative has been undertaken as an early component of the Storage Study as directed by Congress. The analysis in the assessment was completed only to the level necessary to compare the several alternatives under consideration in the study and is not a feasibility study.

Enclosed is the Executive Summary from the forthcoming *Summary Report, Appraisal Assessment of the Black Rock Alternative, A Component of the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study, Washington* (Summary Report). The full Summary Report will be released by February 18, 2005, and will be posted on the Internet at the following Website: http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/storage_study/index.html. The technical reports from which the information in the Summary Report is drawn will be released by February 25, 2005, and will be posted on the same Website.

Reclamation will now continue with Pre-Plan Formulation (Phase 2 of the September 2003 Plan of Study). This includes such activities as the availability of water from the Yakima River, conducting studies to define normative instream flow criteria, and identifying preliminary benefits. A range of technically viable alternative would be compared in the next phase of the study (the plan formulation phase) and an alternative(s) selected for further analysis in the final (feasibility) phase of the study.

As a matter of policy, Reclamation requires non-Federal parties to share in the costs of feasibility studies and to fund a portion of the construction costs of Federal water projects. In light of this policy, the preliminary cost estimates of the Black Rock alternative, and current Federal Budgetary constraints, Reclamation is not reaching a decision at this time as to whether the Black Rock alternative will be carried forward into the next phase of the Storage Study or

dropped from further consideration. Rather, Reclamation will consult with the State of Washington (which is cost sharing in the Storage Study), the Yakama Nation, the potential water exchange participants, project proponents, and other interested parties before reaching a decision in this regard. It is anticipated that a decision will be reached by the fall of 2005.

Reclamation will commence the process of receiving input from interested parties with a series of public information meetings in the spring of 2005. These initial meetings will be designed to give people an opportunity to ask questions about the content of the Summary Report and the supporting technical reports. Later in the spring and continuing into the summer, Reclamation will carry out a public involvement program which will give interested parties the opportunity to address the Black Rock alternative as well as all other currently identified in-basin alternatives (Bumping Lake enlargement, Wymer dam and reservoir, and a Keechelus-Kachess pipeline) and suggest other alternatives for consideration. These discussions will also include the question of whether the Black Rock alternative should be included in the next phase of the Storage Study or eliminated from further consideration.

As mentioned earlier, the Summary Report and the supporting technical series reports will be posted on the Internet in February. If you would rather have a hard copy or a CD version, please contact Mr. Kim McCartney at 509-575-5848, extension 370.

If you have questions about this Executive Summary, please contact me at 509-575-5848, extension 202. If you have general questions related to the Summary Report or the Storage Study, please feel free to contact Mr. Kim McCartney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald Kelso". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerald" and last name "Kelso" clearly distinguishable.

Gerald Kelso
Area Manager

Enclosure

Similar Letter Sent To:

Mr. Jack Carpenter
Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District
P.O. Box 276
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Washington Department of Natural Resources -
Southeast Region
713 Bowers Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926-8510

Mr. Charles Garner
Manager
Kennewick Irrigation District
P.O. Box 6900
Kennewick, WA 99336-0401

Kittitas County Commissioners
205 W. 5th Avenue, Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Yakima Service Center
UDSA-NRCS
1606 Perry Street
Yakima, WA 98902-5795

Yakima County Commissioners
102 North Second Street
Yakima, WA 98901

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 450
Richland, WA 99352

City of Yakima
129 North Second Street
Yakima, WA 98901

City of Richland
P.O. Box 190
Richland, WA 99352

League of Women Voters of Yakima County
P.O. Box 723
Yakima, WA 98907

Mr. Jim Willard
Co-Chair - Yakima River Basin Planning Unit
Tri-County Water Resource Agency
2301 Fruitvale Blvd
Yakima, WA 98902

Northwest Power Planning Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Washington Cattlemen's Association
P.O. Box 96
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
1701 South 24th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902

Washington State Congressional Delegation
2988 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control
c/o Roza Irrigation District
P.O. Box 810
Sunnyside, WA 98944

Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
729 N.E. Oregon Street, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97232

Tri-County Water Resource Agency
2301 Fruitvale Blvd
Yakima, WA 98902

US Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-1128

Benton County Commissioners
PO Box 190
Prosser, WA 99350

Mr. Jim Trull, Manager
Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control
c/o Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
PO Box 239
Sunnyside, WA 98944

Yakima Basin Joint Board
470 Camp 4 Road
Yakima, WA 98908-8812

Mr. John Andrews, Regional Director
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife - Region 1
8702 North Division Street
Spokane, WA 99218

Mr. Bill Arthur
Northwest Regional Director
Sierra Club
180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202
Seattle, WA 98109

Mr. Josh Baldi
Policy Director
Washington Environmental Council
615 Second Avenue, Suite 380
Seattle, WA 98104

Mr. Gary Ballew
Deputy County Administrator
Benton County
7320 West Quinalt
Kennewick, WA 99336

Mr. Dale Bambrick
Regional Director
NOAA - Fisheries
304 South Water, Suite 201
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Mr. Kurt Beardslee
Executive Director
Washington Trout
P.O. Box 402
Duvall, WA 98019

Mr. William Bjork, Jr.
President
Grant County Public Utility District
P.O. Box 878
Ephrata, WA 98823

Mr. Duane Calvin, Co-Chair
Yakima River Basin Planning Unit
Tri-County Water Resource Agency
2301 Fruitvale Blvd
Yakima, WA 98902

Ms. Nina Carter
Policy Director
Audubon-Washington
PO Box 462
Olympia, WA 98507

Mr. John Charba
Research Analyst
State of Washington
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Mr. Kieran Connolly
U. S. Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97232

Honorable Alex Deccio
Washington Senate, 14th District
P.O. Box 40414
Olympia, WA 98504-0414

Honorable Jerome Delvin
Washington State Senate
PO Box 40408
Olympia, WA 98504-0408

Mr. Fred Bower
Union Gap Irrigation District
180 Clark Road
Wapato, WA 98951

Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington , DC 20510

Honorable Bruce Chandler
Washington State House of Representatives
P.O. Box 40600
335C Legislative Bldg
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Honorable Jim Clements
Washington House of Representatives
410 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Mr. Jeff Curtis
Washington Conservation Director
Trout Unlimited
213 SW Ash, #205
Portland, OR 97204

Ms. Paula DelGuidice
National Wildlife Federation - Northwest Region
418 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98119

Mr. Jon DeVaney
The Office of Representative Richard Hastings
302 East Chestnut
Yakima, WA 98901

Mr. Richard Dieker
Secretary/Treasurer/Manager
Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
470 Camp 4 Road
Yakima, WA 98908

Mr. Steve Ellis
Vice President for Programs
Taxpayers for Common Sense
651 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Mr. Larry Fox
Manager
Columbia Irrigation District
10 East Kennewick Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336

Honorable Christine Gregoire
Governor of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Honorable Shirley Hankins
Washington State House of Representatives
103 Modular Building 1
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Honorable Richard (Doc) Hastings
United States House of Representatives
302 E. Chestnut
Yakima, WA 98901

Honorable Mike Hewitt
Washington State Senate
PO Box 40416
Olympia, WA 98504-0416

Ms. Khristin Eby
The Office of Senator Maria Cantwell
825 Jadwin Avenue, G-58-A
Richland, WA 99352

Mr. Richard Erickson
Manager
East Columbia Irrigation District
P.O. Box E
Othello, WA 99344

Honorable Bill Grant
Washington State House of Representatives
434B Legislative Bldg.
PO Box 4060
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Honorable Larry Haler
Washington State House of Representatives
403 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Honorable Richard (Doc) Hastings
United States House of Representatives
1323 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4704

Mr. Gerald Helde
Manager
Selah-Moxee Irrigation District
P.O. Box 239
Sunnyside, WA 98944

Honorable Bill Hinkle
Washington State House of Representatives
102 Modular Bldg 1
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Ms. Linda Hoffman
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Honorable Janea Holmquist
Washington State House of Representatives
408 West 4th
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Mr. John Kirk
Washington State Department of Ecology
15 W. Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902

Dr. Jeff Koinings
Director
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Mr. Acey Oberly
Superintendent
Yakama Agency
P.O. Box 632
Toppenish, WA 98948

Mr. Bob Lohn
Regional Administrator
NOAA - Fisheries
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115-0700

Mr. Robert Masonis
Northwest Regional Director
American Rivers
150 Nickerson Street, Suite 311
Seattle, WA 98109

Honorable Janea Holmquist
Washington State House of Representatives
436 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Honorable Jim Honeyford
Washington State Senate, 15th District
P.O. Box 40415
Olympia, WA 98504-0415

Mr. John Knutson
Yakima Basin Planning Unit
128 N. 2nd Street, 4th Floor
Yakima, WA 98901

Mr. Steven Kruger
Directorate of Public Works
Yakima Training Center, Bldg. 810
Yakima, WA 98901-9399

Mr. Richard Leaumont
Conservation Chair
Lower Columbia Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1900
Richland, WA 99352-6300

Mr. Rene-Marc Magin
Regional Director
Washington State Department of Ecology - Eastern
Region
N 4601 Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Mr. Roderick Matson
President
Naches-Selah Irrigation District
620 Guinan Road
Selah, WA 98942

Ms. Mary McBride
The Office of Senator Patty Murray
The Tower
402 East Yakima Avenue, Suite 390
Yakima, WA 98901

Mr. Mark Miller
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
215 Melody Lane, Suite 119
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Mr. Sid Morrison
Chairman
Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
503 Ballard Road
Zillah, WA 98953

Honorable Joyce Mulliken
Washington Senate
2988 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senator
2988 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Honorable Dan Newhouse
Washington State House of Representatives
P.O. Box 40600
324 John L. O'Brien Bldg
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Mr. Derek Sandison
Washington State Department of Ecology
15 W. Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902

Mr. Jerry Meninick
Chairman - Yakama Tribal Council
Yakama Nation
PO Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

Mr. Tom Monroe
Secretary/Treasurer/Operations Manager
Roza Irrigation District
P.O. Box 810
Sunnyside, WA 98944

Honorable Bob Morton
Washington Senate
P.O. Box 40407
Olympia, WA 98504-0407

Honorable Joyce Mulliken
Washington Senate
P.O. Box 40413
Olympia, WA 98504-0413

Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senator
111 Russell Senate Office Bldg. B-34
Washington, DC 20510-4704

Mr. Rick Pendergrass
US Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland, OR 97232

Mr. Mike Schwisow
Schwisow and Associates
1336 Wilson Street N.E.
Olympia, WA 98506

Honorable Mary Skinner
Washington State House of Representatives
434 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Mr. John Stuhlmiller
Research Analyst
State of Washington
P.O. Box 40462
Olympia, WA 98504-0462

Mr. Doug Sutherland
Commissioner of Public Lands
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 47001
Olympia, WA 98504-7001

Leslie Wahl
President
Yakima Valley Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2823
Yakima, WA 98907

Honorable Maureen Walsh
Washington State House of Representatives
319 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Mr. Jim Willard
Co-Chair - Yakima River Basin Planning Unit
Tri-County Water Resource Agency
2301 Fruitvale Blvd
Yakima, WA 98902